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 From Ankara

Office of the Air Attache  
 American Embassy  
 Ankara, Turkey  
 14 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Cotter

SUBJECT: Report of Soviet Attache Attitudes

This memorandum is submitted to record impressions of the reporting officer with reference to an obvious change in policy and attitude on the part of Russian Attache Personnel toward attache personnel of other nations. It is apparent that this is a directed change of attitude since it is universal amongst U.S.S.R. military attache and civilian diplomatic personnel alike and since the new "campaign of smiles" is extended not only toward Americans but other nationals who are also obviously not sympathetic to Communist interests. This revision of attitude is further mimicked by satellite personnel.

The basis for the impressions that follow has been casual associations with Soviet and satellite personnel at social functions sponsored by either the Russian Embassy or diplomatic representatives of other nations. The dictates of protocol required an exchange of common courtesies and in this activity the Russian representatives have recently become effervescent. More specific impressions were formed at the initial presentation of the reporting officer to the new "Dean of Attaches", Colonel Kondrashev, (Reporting Officer was the first assistant air attache to be presented in formal fashion to the Russian Military Attache) and at two subsequent social functions held at the homes of Russian personnel.

The first "home" social function was a cocktail party held on 27 October 1954 at the home of U.S.S.R. Assistant Army Attache, Colonel Timofei Maliekhine. R.O. arrived with wife a discreet 40 minutes after the starting hour only to find that they were the first non-communists yet arrived. This led to a solitary feeling which was further enhanced by the somber appearance of the barren apartment and the more somber appearance of the waiting guests. The host and his wife were genuinely cordial (in an outward manner) and immediately arranged separate introductions of husband and wife to the guests present. (Women were standing in puppet-like fashion on one side of the living room and men were informally grouped throughout the balance of the available area.) The host was overly friendly toward his newly arrived guests not only because of the newly established "campaign of smiles" but partly because of an exuberance which comes with the first stages of intoxication.

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Pleasantries were repeatedly exchanged using either English or broken Turkish as a common language and then the R.O. found himself involved in a discussion of previous and forthcoming Olympic games and various related subjects pertaining to sports and athletics. The wife of the R.O. during this time was being entertained by an English speaking woman who adeptly managed a quiz conference with reference to a myriad of questions concerning life in U.S.A. Most of the travelogue answers were countered by "this is the way it is in Russia". This woman was undoubtedly a trained interrogator although post mortem analysis of her question and answer technique failed to indicate a set plan or any possibly achieved results. During the course of general conversation the R.O. observed a strained attitude on the part of a few of the guests present; however, the general atmosphere became more relaxed as the Vodka's and canapes were served.

Approximately 30 minutes after the arrival of the R.O., other guests (including 2 U.S. Army Assistant Attaches) began to arrive. Subsequent to these arrivals the party took on an air of guarded gaiety and the host reached a somewhat more advanced stage of alcoholic appreciation. Colonel Kondrachov, Russian military attache, had seemingly set aside his jovial manners for this evening and was seen talking in a very serious manner to the host and later to some of his other subordinates. Some of the junior members present evidenced a definite sign of nervousness while talking to the U.S. guests while other seemed happy to extol the virtues of communism. Lt. Colonel Jacobson (U.S. Army Assistant Attache) was able to release party-line opinions from several of the younger Soviets present who were willing and ready to voice the relative merits of Communism vs. capitalism. At this point, Colonel Kondrachov intervened and attempted to change the topic of conversation.

The Assistant British Attache, the Assistant Iraqi Attache, and the Americans were the only non-Soviet/satellite guests present at this party. Later information revealed the fact that invitations had been tendered certain members of Turkish General Staff but these recipients found it necessary to send their regrets. Departing pleasantries were of the usual type; however, undisguised enmity was so very apparent on the faces of the "female group" that there was again no doubt that this is "the deadliest of species".

A second and more successful cocktail party was given at the apartment of Colonel Kondrachov on 12 January 1955. The reporting officer attended this affair with his wife and with Mrs. Cotter, and found much to his surprise and relief that a more balanced attendance was evidenced. Apparently a well-rounded list of invitations had been extended, for a record of those present was far more varied than a comparable score for the previous "home" party.

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Colonel Kondrashov and Colonel Malichkine's wife were at the head of an informal receiving line and from that point on it was entertainment and conversation where you found it. Obviously this party was either rehearsed or well-briefed for there was an abundance of junior hosts who mingled with the guests with the precision of trained courtiers. The improvement of this function over the previous home party was so apparent that the intent to improve and impress was evident. (Most of the "deadlier species" were either conspicuous by their absence or side-tracked to the outer room.)

The Soviet/R.O. conversations had the same trend as at previous parties, however, invitations were extended to the R.O. by members of one group for attendance at a forthcoming wrestling match. No commitments were made for this activity will undoubtedly take place at a time when other obligations will intervene.

An interesting conversation was monitored in relative silence by the R.O. as Lt. Colonel Aras of Turkish Air Force (Intelligence) engaged Timofei Mordvintsev (Soviet 1st Secretary) in a lively discussion relating to the possibilities of a third World War. Colonel Malichkine (the fourth participant) ventured an opinion that bomber type aircraft (fission type weapons inferred) would only serve to aggravate the horrors of war and would not decide the final outcome. Colonel Aras, acting as an exponent of aerial warfare potential disagreed and voiced the Strategic and Tactical Air principles in a fashion that sounded like a documentary quote, whereupon Mr. Mordvintsev countered with a change of subject relating to the possibility of a futuristic World Peace Program. Ensuing conversation followed a similar vein with both Colonel Aras and Mr. Timofei Mordvintsev maneuvering for a final touche. Occasional remarks were addressed to the R.O. but in general, each of the major electionists seemed most interested in hearing his own voice. Report of this conversation is made to illustrate how much more willing the Soviets have become with reference to openly mixing with foreigners and discussing such delicate subjects as war possibilities, theory of aggressions and world peace programs.

Another interesting highlight to this party was the attitude of Mr. Veniamine Likhatchev who is also listed diplomatically as another 1st Secretary. Mr. Likhatchev had apparently been responsible for some of the party arrangements or perhaps the demeanor of Soviet participants, for he frequently conferred with Colonel Kondrashov and other host-aids in a manner that would indicate authority and supervision. He appeared to be issuing instructions to the most active of "courtiers" for they seemed to leave his presence with a determined objective in mind.

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The Turkish attitude toward this new Soviet "friendship" is one of deep seated suspicion. Six Turkish officers were in attendance at this party in comparison with approximately 20 invitations received by TGS and this is believed to be the first time any of these officers had been to a Russian "home" party.

Upon departing the Kondrachev apartment building a man was observed on the opposite side of the street in the same inconspicuous position he had occupied two hours previously. This man was probably the working equivalent of the Turkish Secret Police, for such an observation was made at the first party also.

Opinionated comments of the reporting officer have been made throughout this memorandum and any speculations pertaining to the "campaign of smiles" is left to more qualified political analysts.

JOHN T. CONNELLY  
 Captain, USAF  
 Assistant Air Attache

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